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What they
said

'Many HCAs are highly skilled, and the health service could not function for a single day without them'

RCN deputy director of nursing Stephanie Aiken
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'Often nurses bounce jokes off each other and many get through the day with some gallows humour'

Life/health coach Mandy Day-Calder

'Nothing can prepare you for seeing someone die. The "what ifs" raced around my head for weeks afterwards'

Third-year nursing student Mark Weetman
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ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE

HIV: an integrated approach

New guidelines ensure people living with HIV are at the heart of their care and decision making, say Jason Warriner and Michelle Croston



Jason Warriner is clinical services director at The Sussex Beacon, which provides specialist HIV care



Michelle Croston is chair of the National HIV Nurses Association

Last month, the National HIV Nurses Association (NHVNA) produced guidelines on advanced nursing practice in HIV care, endorsed by the RCN.

People living with HIV deserve excellent nursing care, and, since the start of the epidemic in the 1980s, nurses have led the way in developing services and models of care for people living with HIV.

Many changes have taken place due to nurses responding to the evolving needs of their patients and a desire for new roles and responsibilities.

In late 2014, there were 103,700 people living with HIV in the UK.

Year on year this number increases, requiring nurses in 2016 to look at new ways of working.

The NHVNA has brought together a set of guidelines in one document to demonstrate the evidence base and requirements for advanced nursing practice to safeguard HIV care in the future.

There are four elements:

- » Core elements of advanced nursing practice in HIV care.
- » Competency requirements for advanced nursing practice roles.
- » Implementing advanced nursing practice roles.
- » Commissioning advanced nursing practice and models of HIV care.

Examples of advanced HIV care in hospital community settings range from running nurse-led clinics, and delivering services in alternative settings, to improving quality accessibility and uptake, providing ongoing support with treatment adherence and public health interventions, such as HIV testing.

New ways of working

The breadth of advanced practice in HIV care provides many opportunities to further develop roles and promote collaborative ways of working. The guidelines are written for nurses, doctors, service providers and commissioners to promote an integrated approach to care.

They can be used as part of career planning for nurses wishing to develop their roles, for commissioning services and to demonstrate value and quality in relation to national standards.

For these guidelines to be a success, all nurses working in HIV care must promote them.

Investment in education and training is also needed, along with succession planning by senior nurses and ensuring that people living with HIV are placed at the heart of everything we do.

To view the NHVNA guidelines visit tinyurl.com/NS-HIV-guidelines

PUNCH LINE

